

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 20366 01 OF 02 161959Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EA-07 NEA-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05

AID-05 /105 W

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R 161920Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 20366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, GW, PGOV, PINT

SUBJECT: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN UGANDA'S
FOREIGN POLICY

REF: BONN 19045 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN KAMPALA COMMENTS ON
UGANDA'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES, THE
SOVIET UNION, THE PRC AND AMIN'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 20366 01 OF 02 161959Z

1. THE LAST MONTHS BROUGHT CONSIDERABLE CHANGES IN

UGANDAN RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN AND NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

2. AMIN'S PERSONAL ENDEAVORS TO MEDiate BETWEEN RIVAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA BROUGHT HIM GROWING RESPECT FROM THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES SUDAN, ZAIRE, AND RUANDA AND FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE CONTINENT. MESSAGES FROM VARIOUS HEADS OF STATE SHOW APPRECIATION FOR AMIN'S WORK AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU. EVEN NYERERE MADE HIS FIRST POSITIVE REMARKS ABOUT AMIN.

ALSO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FROM RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA BEGIN TO TAKE AMIN SERIOUSLY. REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANC, OAU,, AND SWAPO WHO HAD LONG SESSIONS WITH AMIN REGARD HIM AS A STRONG CHAIRMAN OF OAU. RECENT VISITORS INCLUDE SITHOLE, LEBALLO AND OTHERS.

3. IN RELATIONS WITH ARABS, AMIN HAS BECOME MORE CRITICAL AND LESS CONVINCED OF THEIR RADICAL STAND ON ISRAEL. IN CRISIS WITH SOVIETS HE OPENLY REJECTED QADHAFI'S INTERVENTION AND CLOSED RANKS WITH EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE. HIS ACCUSATION THAT ARABS TAKE BLACK- AFRICAN SUPPORT IN UN FOR GRANTED BUT INVEST THEIR MONEY IN WESTERN COUNTRIES BECOME MORE FREQUENT.

4. IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA AND UK, THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF COMPENSATION ARISING FROM THE EXPULSION OF ASIANS AND NATIONALIZATION OF BRITISH PROPERTIES. BUT IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR -HALF-WAY REASONABLE COMPENSATIONS ARE AVAILABLE. AT LEAST THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO CHANGE ITS REPUTATION AS A BAD DEBTOR BY HIGH LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS.

THE MOST REMARKABLE EVENT RECENTLY WAS THE BREAK WITH SOVIETS OVER ANGOLA. NOBODY EXPECTED THIS WOULD HAPPEN SO SOON AND SO SUDDEN. WHAT SURPRISED MORE WAS THAT SOVIETS GAVE IN TO AMIN WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER BREAKING WITH HIM WITH A MESSAGE BY BREZHNEV TO AMIN. THE SOVIETS REALIZED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT GIVE UP THE STRONG POSITION THEY HAD BUILT UP MILITARILY AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 20366 01 OF 02 161959Z

POLITICALLY IN UGANDA AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE THE CHAIRMAN OF OAU AS AN ENEMY. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOVIET POSITION IS BADLY DAMAGED AND ATTACKS ON THE SOVIETS CONTINUE.

5. IN A SPEECH ON NOVEMBER 20TH, AMIN MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE PERSONALLY IS AGAINST COMMUNIST OR SOCIALIST IDEOLOGIES AND REGARDS BOTH AS AGAINST THE AFRICAN

HERITAGE. HE STRESSED BELIEF IN GOD, THE RIGHT TO
OWN PROPERTY, AND THE RIGHT TO MOVE FREELY.

6. CHINA IMMEDIATELY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY
BY JOINING IN THE ATTACKS ON SOVIETS. AFTER THE SOVIET
AMBASSADOR WAS DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA-IN A MESSAGE
TO AMIN, MAO GAVE AMIN FULL SUPPORT ON ANGOLA WHICH WAS
WIDELY PUBLICIZED TOGETHER WITH STRONG ATTACKS BY
CHINESE ON SOVIETS-CALLING THEM "SOCIAL IMPERIALISTS"
AND "ENEMIES OF AFRICA."

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PAGE 01 BONN 20366 02 OF 02 161938Z

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 20366

7. AFTER BREAK WITH RUSSIANS AMIN OPENLY ASKED FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH USA, UK, FRANCE AND CHINA. BRITONS WERE ASKED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON COMPENSATION AND INTENSIFYING TRADE RELATIONS. BUSINESS VISITORS FROM ITALY RECEIVED WARM WELCOME BY AMIN PERSONALLY. OUTGOING NUNCIO WAS GIVEN FAREWELL DINNER BY PRESIDENT AMIN WHICH HAD NEVER OCCURRED BEFORE.

8. WITH REGARD TO USA, AMIN REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RELATIONS BE NORMALIZED. HE SHOWED SURPRISE THAT SECOND PART OF UN SPEECH WAS "MISUNDERSTOOD" AND
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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 20366 02 OF 02 161938Z

REJECTED BY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC. HE WAS NAIVE ENOUGH TO EXPECT THAT DESPITE THE SPEECH HE MIGHT BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT FORD. GIFTS TO PRESIDENT FORD AND FAMILY WERE ON BOARD PLANE AND TAKEN BACK HOME EMBASSY HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCE.

9. IT IS THE IMPRESSION OF THE UNDERSIGNED AND OTHER DIPLOMATS, INCLUDING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, THAT AMIN IS SERIOUS IN HIS EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE IS DISAPPOINTED WITH THE SOVIETS AND SOME ARAB STATES, INCLUDING LIBYA AND MOST LIKELY WOULD MEET DEMANDS BY USA AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES IF THEY SHOULD BE WILLING TO RESUME NORMAL RELATIONS WITH UGANDA.

10. THEREFORE, THIS EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE US RECONSIDER RELATIONS WITH UGANDA. IF REOPENING EMBASSY IN KAMPALA IS CONSIDERED AT ALL, THE PRESENT MOMENT SEEMS TO PRESENT A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO GET FROM AMIN THE DESIRED ASSURANCES. AMIN MIGHT EVEN AGREE TO ALTER HIS STAND ON ISRAEL LEADING OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDES. THE DIALOGUE COULD BE STARTED BY A REPLY FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO AMIN'S RECENT OVERTURES. ELLERKMANN
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